

Manzullo	Peterson (PA)	Smith (TX)
Markey	Petri	Smith (WA)
Martinez	Phelps	Snyder
Mascara	Pickering	Souder
Matsui	Pitts	Spence
McCarthy (MO)	Pombo	Spratt
McCarthy (NY)	Pomeroy	Stabenow
McCollum	Porter	Stark
McCrery	Portman	Stearns
McDermott	Price (NC)	Stenholm
McHugh	Pryce (OH)	Strickland
McInnis	Quinn	Stump
McIntosh	Radanovich	Stupak
McIntyre	Rahall	Sununu
McKeon	Ramstad	Sweeney
McKinney	Rangel	Talent
McNulty	Regula	Tancredo
Meehan	Reyes	Tauscher
Meek (FL)	Reynolds	Tauzin
Meeks (NY)	Riley	Taylor (MS)
Menendez	Rivers	Taylor (NC)
Metcalf	Rodriguez	Terry
Mica	Roemer	Thomas
Millender-	Rogan	Thompson (CA)
McDonald	Rogers	Thompson (MS)
Miller (FL)	Rohrabacher	Thornberry
Miller, Gary	Ros-Lehtinen	Thune
Miller, George	Rothman	Thurman
Minge	Roukema	Tiahrt
Mink	Roybal-Allard	Toomey
Mollohan	Royce	Trafficant
Moore	Ryan (WI)	Turner
Moran (KS)	Ryun (KS)	Udall (CO)
Moran (VA)	Sabo	Udall (NM)
Morella	Salmon	Upton
Murtha	Sanchez	Velázquez
Myrick	Sanders	Vento
Nadler	Sandlin	Visclosky
Napolitano	Sanford	Walden
Neal	Sawyer	Walsh
Nethercutt	Saxton	Wamp
Ney	Scarborough	Waters
Northup	Schaffer	Watkins
Norwood	Schakowsky	Watt (NC)
Nussle	Sensenbrenner	Watts (OK)
Oberstar	Serrano	Waxman
Obey	Sessions	Weiner
Olver	Shadeegg	Weldon (FL)
Ortiz	Shaw	Weldon (PA)
Ose	Shays	Weller
Owens	Sherman	Wexler
Oxley	Sherwood	Weygand
Packard	Shimkus	Whitfield
Pallone	Shows	Wicker
Pascarell	Shuster	Wilson
Pastor	Simpson	Wise
Paul	Skeen	Wolf
Payne	Skelton	Woolsey
Pease	Slaughter	Wu
Pelosi	Smith (MI)	Wynn
Peterson (MN)	Smith (NJ)	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—24

Bateman	Gutknecht	Pickett
Brown (CA)	Jefferson	Rush
Carson	LaHood	Scott
Cooksey	Lantos	Sisisky
Delahunt	Leach	Tanner
DeLay	Luther	Tierney
Deutsch	McGovern	Towns
Ehlers	Moakley	Young (FL)

□ 1550

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, due to flight cancellations earlier today, I was unable to be present to vote on Tuesday, February 2, 1999, for the following votes:

Rollcall No. 7—H.R. 68—I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 8—H.R. 432—I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on February 2, 1999, during rollcall vote Nos. 7 and 8. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 7, and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 8.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 30) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 30

Committee on Government Reform: Mrs. CHENOWETH.

Committee on the Judiciary: Mr. BACHUS.

Committee on Science: Mr. SANFORD; and Mr. METCALF.

Committee on Small Business: Mr. PEASE; Mr. THUNE; and Mrs. BONO.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. BEREUTER; Mr. KUYKENDALL; and Mr. SIMPSON.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Mr. HANSEN; Mr. MCKEON; and Mr. GIBBONS; all to rank in the named order following Mr. LAHOOD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "BILLY" MALRY

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, those of us who have the great privilege of serving in this body because of our election from our constituencies come to this floor every day and walk the halls of this Capitol which we revere. Every day we see the faces of and know the names of some who serve this institution so well. They are individuals who care as deeply for their country as those of us who are elected to serve in this body, and their quiet, unassuming competence adds to the quality of service that we give to the American public.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to note sadly, as others have done, the passing of a

friend, the passing of a servant of this House, a servant of the people, as we are all servants of the people. His name was Charles "Billy" Malry. Some of my colleagues may not know the name, but they saw him in the Speaker's Lobby. They would see him in the cloakroom. He facilitated the operations of this House.

He was born May 6, 1936, in Greer, South Carolina, and was raised in Washington. He served in the Army until 1962. After his return from the Army he worked at the O Street Market here in Washington, D.C.

In 1966, 32 years ago, he started working here in the Capitol, where he worked until his death the very night the President delivered his State of the Union message. Billy was in the cloakroom, on duty, assisting Members, facilitating our work. God took him home.

Billy enjoyed entertaining people as well as music and photography. He was a real person, a warm person, a caring person. He cared about each one of us. Those of us who had the privilege of being his friend will never forget him.

He was the father of five children: Renee, Charles, Charles Jr., Michael and Tonya. His mother, Frances Malry Allen, nine grandchildren, as well as four brothers and seven sisters are left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of going to the church here in Washington, and I talked to his mother, and I congratulated her for raising a son who had done so much for his country and so much for each of us. Billy's smile and warmth and service will be missed. Bill Malry served his country well.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the President of the United States:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, February 1, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1105, attached is the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2000.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, FISCAL YEAR 2000—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-3)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without

objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

The 2000 Budget, which I am submitting to you with this message, promises the third balanced budget in my Administration. With this budget, our fiscal house is in order, our spirit strong, and our resources prepare us to meet the challenges of the next century.

This budget marks a new era of opportunity. When I took office six years ago, I was determined to reverse decades of fiscal decline—a time when deficits grew without restraint, the economy suffered, and our national purpose seemed to be undermined. For too many years, the deficit loomed over us, a powerful reminder of the Government's inability to the people's business.

Today, Americans deserve to be proud and confident in their ability to meet the next set of challenges. In the past six years, we have risen to our responsibilities and, as a result, have built an economy of unprecedented prosperity. We have done this the right way—by balancing fiscal discipline and investing in our Nation.

This budget continues on the same path. It invests in education and training so Americans can make the most of this economy's opportunities. It invests in health and the environment to improve our quality of life. It invests in our security at home and abroad, strengthens law enforcement and provides our Armed Forces with the resources they need to safeguard our national interests in the next century.

This year's budget surplus is one in many decades of surpluses to come—if we maintain our resolve and stay on the path that brought us this success in the first place. The budget forecasts that the economy will remain strong, producing surpluses until well into the next century.

The 21st Century promises to be a time of promise for the American people. Our challenge as we move forward is to maintain our strategy of balancing fiscal discipline with the need to make wise decisions about our investment priorities. This strategy has resulted in unprecedented prosperity; it is now providing us with resources of a size and scope that just a few years ago simply didn't seem possible. Now that these resources are in our reach, it is both our challenge and responsibility to make sure we use them wisely.

First and foremost, in the last year of this century, the task awaiting us is to save Social Security. The conditions are right. We have reserved the surplus, our economy is prosperous, and last year's national dialogue has advanced the goal of forging consensus. Acting now makes the work ahead easier, with changes that will be far

simpler than if we wait until the problem is closer at hand.

In my State of the Union address, I proposed a framework for saving Social Security that will use 62 percent of the surplus for the next 15 years to strengthen the Trust Fund until the middle of the next century. Part of the surplus dedicated to Social Security would be invested in private securities, further strengthening the Trust Fund by drawing on the long-term strength of the stock market, and reducing the debt to ensure strong fiscal health. This proposal will keep Social Security safe and strong until 2055. In order to reach my goal of protecting and preserving the Trust Fund until 2075, I urge the Congress to join me on a bipartisan basis to make choices that, while difficult, can be achieved, and include doing more to reduce poverty among single elderly women.

I am committed to upholding the pledge I made last year—that we must not drain the surplus until we save Social Security. It is time to fix Social Security now. And once we have done so, we should turn our efforts to other pressing national priorities. We must fulfill our obligation to save and improve Medicare—my framework would reserve 15 percent of the projected surplus for Medicare, ensuring that the Medicare Trust Fund is secure for 20 years. It would establish Universal Savings Accounts, using just over one-tenth of the surplus to encourage all Americans to save and invest so they will have additional income in retirement. I propose that we reserve the final portion of the projected surplus, 11 percent, to provide resources for other pressing national needs that will arise in the future, including the need to maintain the military readiness of the Nation's Armed Forces, education, and other critical domestic priorities.

CHARTING A COURSE FOR THE NEW ERA OF SURPLUS

Six years ago, when my Administration took office, we were determined to create the conditions for the Nation to enter the 21st Century from a position of strength. We were committed to turning the economy around, to reining in a budget that was out of control, and to restoring to the country confidence and purpose.

Today, we have achieved these goals. The budget is in balance for the first time in a generation and surpluses are expected as far as the eye can see. The Nation's economy continues to grow; this is the longest peacetime expansion in our history. There are more than 17 million new jobs; unemployment is at its lowest peacetime level in 41 years; and today, more Americans own their own homes than at any time in our history.

Americans today are safer, more prosperous, and have more opportunity. Crime is down, poverty is falling, and the number of people on wel-

fare is the lowest it has been in 25 years. By almost every measure, our economy is vibrant and our Nation is strong.

Throughout the past six years, my Administration has been committed to creating opportunity for all Americans, demanding responsibility from all Americans and to strengthening the American community. We have made enormous strides, with the success of our economy creating new opportunity and with our repair of the social fabric that had frayed so badly in recent decades reinvigorating our sense of community. Most of all, the prosperity and opportunity of our time offers us a great responsibility—to take action to ensure that Social Security is there for the elderly and the disabled, while ensuring that it not place a burden on our children.

We have met the challenge of deficit reduction; there is now every reason for us to rise to the next challenge. For sixty years, Social Security has been a bedrock of security in retirement. It has saved many millions of Americans from an old age of poverty and dependency. It has offered help to those who become disabled or suffer the death of a family breadwinner. For these Americans—in fact, for all Americans—Social Security is a reflection of our deepest values of community and the obligations we owe to each other.

It is time this year to work together to strengthen Social Security so that we may uphold these obligations for years to come. We have the rare opportunity to act to meet these challenges—or in the words of the old saying, to fix the roof while the sun is shining. And at least as important, we can engage this crucial issue from a position of strength—with our economy prosperous and our resources available to do the job of fixing Social Security. I urge Americans to join together to make that happen this year.

BUILDING ON ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

At the start of 1993, when my Administration took office, the Nation's economy had barely grown during the previous four years, creating few jobs. Interest rates were high due to the Government's massive borrowing to finance the deficit, which had reached a record \$290 billion and was headed higher.

Determined to set America on the right path, we launched an economic strategy built upon three elements: promoting fiscal responsibility; investing in policies that strengthen the American people, and engaging in the international economy. Only by pursuing all three elements could we restore the economy and build for the future.

My 1993 budget plan, the centerpiece of our economic strategy, was a balanced plan that cut hundreds of billions of dollars of Federal spending while raising income taxes only on the

very wealthiest of Americans. By cutting unnecessary and lower-priority spending, we found the resources to cut taxes for 15 million working families and to pay for strategic investments in areas including education and training, the environment, and other priorities meant to improve the standard of living and quality of life for the American people.

Six years later, we have balanced the budget; and if we keep our resolve, the budget will be balanced for many years to come. We have invested in the education and skills of our people, giving them the tools they need to raise their children and get good jobs in an increasingly competitive economy. We have expanded trade, generating record exports that create high-wage jobs for millions of Americans.

The economy has been on an upward trend, almost from the start of my Administration's new economic policies. Shortly after the release of my 1993 budget plan, interest rates fell, and they fell even more as I worked successfully with Congress to put the plan into law. These lower interest rates helped to spur the steady economic growth and strong business investment that we have enjoyed for the last six years. Our policies have helped create over 17 million jobs, while interest rates have remained low and inflation has stayed under control.

As we move ahead, I am determined to ensure that we continue to strike the right balance between fiscal discipline and strategic investments. We must not forget the discipline that brought us this new era of surplus—it is as important today as it was during our drive to end the days of deficits. Yet, we also must make sure that we balance our discipline with the need to provide resources for the strategic investments of the future.

IMPROVING PERFORMANCE THROUGH BETTER MANAGEMENT

Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government, with which we are truly creating a Government that "works better and costs less," played a significant role in helping restore accountability to Government, and fiscal responsibility to its operations. In streamlining Government, we have done more than just reduce or eliminate hundreds of Federal programs and projects. We have cut the civilian Federal work force by 365,000, giving us the smallest work force in 36 years. In fact, as a share of our total civilian employment, we have the smallest work force since 1933.

But we have set out to do more than just cut Government. We set out to make Government work, to create a Government that is more efficient and effective, and to create a Government focused on its customers, the American people.

We have made real progress, but we still have much work to do. We have

reinvented parts of departments and agencies, but we are forcing ahead with new efforts to improve the quality of the service that the Government offers its customers. My Administration has identified 24 Priority Management Objectives, and we will tackle some of the Government's biggest management challenges—meeting the year 2000 computer challenge; modernizing student aid delivery; and completing the restructuring of the Internal Revenue Service.

I am determined that we will solve the very real management challenges before us.

PREPARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Education and Training: Education, in our competitive global economy, has become the dividing line between those who are able to move ahead and those who lag behind. For this reason, I have devoted a great deal of effort to ensure that we have a world-class system of education and training in place for Americans of all ages. Over the last six years, we have worked hard to ensure that every boy and girl is prepared to learn, that our schools focus on high standards and achievement, that anyone who wants to go to college can get the financial help to attend, and that those who need another chance at education and training or a chance to improve or learn new skills can do so.

My budget significantly increases funds to help children, especially in the poorest communities, reach challenging academic standards; and makes efforts to strengthen accountability. It proposes investments to end social promotion, where too many public school students move from grade to grade without having mastered the basics, by expanding after school learning hours to give students the tools they need to earn advancement. The budget proposes improving school accountability by funding monetary awards to the highest performing schools that serve low-income students, providing resources to States to help them identify and change the least successful schools. It invests in programs to help raise the educational achievement of Hispanic students. The budget invests in reducing class size by recruiting and preparing thousands more teachers and building thousands more new classrooms. It increases Pell Grants and other college scholarships from the record levels already reached. My budget also helps the disabled enter the work force, by increasing flexibility to allow Medicaid and Medicare coverage and by providing tax credits to cover the extra costs associated with working.

Families and Children: During the past six years, we have taken many steps to help working families, and we continue that effort with this budget. We cut taxes for 15 million working families, provided a tax credit to help families raise their children, ensured that 25

million Americans a year can change jobs without losing their health insurance, made it easier for the self-employed and those with pre-existing conditions to get health insurance, provided health care coverage for up to five million uninsured children, raised the minimum wage, and provided guaranteed time off for workers who need to care for a newborn or to address the health needs of a family member.

I am determined to provide the help that families need when it comes to finding affordable child care. I am proposing a major effort to make child care more affordable, accessible, and safe by expanding tax credits for middle-income families and for businesses to increase their child care resources, by assisting parents who want to attend college meet their child care needs, and by increasing funds with which the Child Care and Development Block Grant will help more poor and near-poor children. My budget proposes an Early Learning Fund, which would provide grants to communities for activities that improve early childhood education and the quality of child care for those under age five. And it proposes increasing equity for legal immigrants by restoring their Supplemental Security Income benefits and Food Stamps and by expanding health coverage to legal immigrant children.

Economic Development: Most Americans are enjoying the fruits of our strong economy. But while many urban and rural areas are doing better, too many others have grown disconnected from our values of opportunity, responsibility and community. Working with the State and local governments and with the private sector, I am determined to help bring our distressed areas back to life and to replace despair with hope. I am proposing a New Markets Investment Strategy which will provide tax credit and loan guarantee incentives to stimulate billions in new private investment in distressed rural and urban areas. It will build a network of private investment institutions to funnel credit, equity, and technical assistance into businesses in America's untapped markets, and provide the expertise to targeted small businesses that will allow them to use investment to grow. I am also proposing to create more Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, which provide tax incentives and direct spending to encourage the kind of private investment that creates jobs, and to provide more capital for lending through my Community Development Financial Institutions program. My budget also expands opportunities for home ownership, provides more funds to enforce the Nation's civil rights laws, maintains our government-to-government commitment to Native Americans, and strengthens the partnership we have begun with the District of Columbia.

Health Care: This past year, we continued to improve health care for millions of Americans. Forty-seven States enrolled 2.5 million uninsured children in the new Children's Health Insurance Program. By executive order, I extended the patient protections that were included in the Patient's Bill of Rights, including emergency room access and the right to see a specialist, to 85 million Americans covered by Federal health plans, including Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and Federal employees. Medicare beneficiaries gained access of new prevention benefits, managed care choices, and low-income protections. My budget gives new insurance options to hundreds of thousands of Americans aged 55 to 65. I am advocating bipartisan national legislation to reduce tobacco use, especially among young people. And I am proposing a Long-Term Care initiative, including a \$1,000 tax credit, to help patients, families, and care givers cope with the burdens of long-term care. The budget enables more Medicare recipients to receive promising cancer treatments by participating more easily in clinical trials. And it improves the fiscal soundness of Medicare and Medicaid through new management proposals, including programs to combat waste, fraud and abuse.

International Affairs: America must maintain its role as the world's leader by providing resources to pursue our goals of prosperity, democracy, and security. The resources in my budget will help us promote peace in troubled areas, provide enhanced security for our officials working abroad, combat weapons of mass destruction, and promote trade.

The United States continues to play a leadership role in a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The Wye River Memorandum, signed in October 1998, helps establish a path to restore positive momentum to the peace process. My budget supports this goal with resources for an economic and military assistance package to help meet priority needs arising from the Wye Memorandum.

Despite progress in making peace there are real and growing threats to our national security. The terrorist attack against two U.S. embassies in East Africa last year is a stark reminder. My budget proposes increased funding to ensure the continued protection of American embassies, consulates and other facilities, and the valuable employees who work there. Our security and stability throughout the world is also threatened by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The budget supports significant increases for State Department efforts to address this need.

National Security: The Armed Forces of the United States serve as the backbone of our national security strategy.

In this post-Cold War era, the military's responsibilities have changed, but not diminished—and in many ways have become ever more complex. The military must be in a position to guard against the major threats to U.S. security: regional dangers, such as cross-border aggression; the proliferation of the technology of weapons of mass destruction; transnational dangers, such as the spread of illegal drugs and terrorism; and direct attacks on the U.S. homeland from intercontinental ballistic missiles or other weapons of mass destruction.

Last year, the military and civilian leaders of our Armed Forces expressed concern that if we do not act to shore up our Nation's defenses, we would see a future decline in our military readiness—the ability of our forces to engage where and when necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States. Our military readiness is currently razor-sharp, and I intend to take measures to keep it that way. Therefore, I am proposing a long-term, sustained increase in defense spending to enhance the military's ability to respond to crises, build for the future through weapons modernization programs, and take care of military personnel and their families by enhancing the quality of life, thereby increasing retention and recruitment.

Science and Technology: During the last six years, I have sought to strengthen science and technology investments in order to serve many of our broader goals for the Nation in the economy, education, health care, the environment, and national defense. My budget strengthens basic research programs, which are the foundation of the Government's role in expanding scientific knowledge and spurring innovation. Through the 21st Century Research Fund, the budget provides strong support for the Nation's two largest funders of civilian basic research at universities: the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. My budget provides a substantial increase for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Space Science program, including a significant cooperative endeavor with Russia.

My budget also provides resources to launch a bold, new Information Technology Initiative to invest in long-term research in computing and communications. It will accelerate development of extremely fast supercomputers to support civilian research, enabling scientists to develop life-saving drugs, provide earlier tornado warnings, and design more fuel-efficient, safer automobiles.

The Environment: The Nation does not have to choose between a strong economy and a clean environment. The past six years are proof that we can have both. We have set tough new clean air standards for soot and smog that will

prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year. We have set new food and water safety standards and have accelerated the pace of cleanups of toxic Superfund sites. We expanded our efforts to protect tens of millions of acres of public and private lands, including Yellowstone National Park and Florida's Everglades. Led by the Vice President, the Administration reached an international agreement in Kyoto that calls for cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. In my budget this year, I am proposing a historic interagency Lands Legacy initiative to both preserve the Nation's Great Places, and advance preservation of open spaces in every community. This initiative will give State and local governments the tools for orderly growth while protecting and enhancing green spaces, clean water, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation. I also propose a Livability Initiative with a new financing mechanism, Better America Bonds, to create more open spaces in urban and suburban areas, protect water quality, and clean up abandoned industrial sites. My budget continues to increase our investments in energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy to strengthen our economy while reducing greenhouse gases. And I am proposing a new Clean Air Partnership Fund to support State and local efforts to reduce both air pollution and greenhouse gases.

Law: Our anti-crime strategy is working. For more than six years, serious crime has fallen uninterrupted and the murder rate is down by more than 28 percent, its lowest point in three decades. But, because crime remains unacceptably high, we must go further. Building on our successful community policing (COPS) program, which in this, its final year, places 100,000 more police on the street, my budget launches the next step—the 21st Century Policing initiative. This initiative invests in additional police targeted especially to crime “hot spots,” in crime fighting technology, and in community based prosecutors and crime prevention. The budget also provides funds to prevent violence against women, and to address the growing law enforcement crisis on Indian lands. To boost our efforts to control illegal immigration, the budget provides the resources to strengthen border enforcement in the South and West, remove illegal aliens, and expand our efforts to verify whether newly hired non-citizens are eligible for jobs. To combat drug use, particularly among young people, my budget expands programs that stress treatment and prevention, law enforcement, international assistance, and interdiction.

ENTERING THE 21ST CENTURY

As we prepare to enter the next century, we must keep sight of the source of our great success. We enjoy an economy of unprecedented prosperity due, in large measure, to our commitment

to fiscal discipline. In the past six years, we have worked together as a Nation, facing the responsibility to correct the mistaken deficit-driven policies of the past. Balancing the budget has allowed our economy to prosper and has freed our children from a future in which mounting deficits threatened to limit options and sap the country's resources.

In the course of the next century, we will face new challenges for which we are now fully prepared. As the result of our fiscal policy, and the resources it has produced, we will enter this next century from a position of strength, confident that we have both the purpose and ability to meet the tasks ahead. If we keep our course, and maintain the important balance between fiscal discipline and investing wisely in priorities, our position of strength promises to last for many generations to come.

The great and immediate challenge before us is to save Social Security. It is time to move forward now.

We have already started the hard work of seeking to build consensus for Social Security's problems. Let us finish the job before the year ends. Let us enter the 21st Century knowing that the American people have met one more great challenge—that we have fulfilled the obligations we owe to each other as Americans.

If we can do this—and surely we can—then we will be able to look ahead with confidence, knowing that our strength, our resources, and our national purpose will help make the year 2000 the first in what promises to be the next American Century.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 1, 1999.

□ 1615

REPORT CONCERNING EMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES OF ALBANIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-16)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Albania. The report indicates continued Albanian compliance with U.S. and international standards in the area of emigration. In fact, Albania has imposed no emigration restrictions, including exit visa requirements, on its population since 1991.

On December 5, 1997, I determined and reported to the Congress that Al-

bania is not in violation of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, or paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 409(a) that act. That action allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations status for Albania and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver. This semiannual report is submitted as required by law pursuant to the determination of December 5, 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2, 1999.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PROGRESS OF LIVABLE COMMUNITIES MOVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, we begin the new session on a note of optimism that has been sounded by Republican leaders, by our Democratic leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), and by the President of the United States in his recent appearance in this Chamber. This is important, because we have been consumed by the dark cloud hanging over this Capitol.

Over this past year, a few bright spots have indeed emerged. I am especially pleased with the progress and the attention given to the Livable Communities movement.

Recently highlighted by the administration in the President's State of the Union speech, elements were previewed a week earlier by the Vice President, who is a major architect of this work. The Vice President's address last September at the Brookings Institute was one of the best statements I have heard on the importance of Livable Communities and how to encourage them.

While I am pleased with their leadership, I want to caution that this is not just a partisan initiative of the Democratic administration. As an appointee over 25 years ago of Oregon's legendary Republican Governor Tom McCall to his Livable Oregon Committee, I know full well that making our communities livable does not have to be a partisan effort. Indeed, it should not be.

Oregon's achievements in land use, transportation and environmental protection have made it a beacon for the Livable Communities movement. Our efforts were marked by a spirit of bipartisan cooperation. Nationally, we have seen an example of Republican interest when Governor Christy Todd Whitman made "Livable New Jersey" the theme of her second and final inaugural address.

The most important strength of the Livable Communities movement is that it transcends even bipartisan politics. Over 200 local and state ballot initiatives faced voters this November from around the country signaling a new era of grassroots pressure to create more livable communities and to have government become a better partner in that effort. I would note that an overwhelming majority of those initiatives passed.

For some it is too easy to discount the Federal role, citing local control, fear of regulation or simply misreading history. The fact is the Federal Government has been a partner with local government and the private sector in shaping the landscape and building communities since the Federal Government first started taking land away from the native Americans, who were largely hunters and gatherers, and gave it to European farmers, who cut and burned the forests for farms.

Now that President Clinton and Vice President GORE have made Livable Communities a priority, raising new levels of interest, it is more important than ever that the problems of dysfunctional communities be addressed by we in Congress.

This movement brings together communities, large and small, rural and urban, inner city and suburb. This Congress has an historic opportunity to rise above partisanship and business as usual to work together to improve the quality of life of all Americans.

These proposals will not end up costing great sums of money; indeed, by and large, they will save money and create wealth. They are not going to put people at risk. They will indeed strengthen the lives of our communities and enrich them.

It does not require picking winners and losers. Livable Communities do not discriminate against one another, they reach out to include people. There is something in it for everyone.

During the work of the last Congress, on the ISTEA reauthorization to create T-21, I used a scriptural reference found in Isaiah, 58:12. If anything, it is more applicable for the Livable Communities initiative.

Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall rise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

In the weeks ahead, I will be suggesting simple, inexpensive steps that we can all take to make our communities safe, economically secure and healthy; from not having our communities held hostage to the whims of billionaire sports franchise owners, to making the Post Office obey local land use, planning and zoning codes and work with local communities before they make decisions that have the potential of tearing the heart out of historic small town America; to reforming